

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 5 – 7, 12, and 14 – 19 are pending in the application following entry of the foregoing amendment. Claims 2 – 4, 8 – 11, and 13 are canceled.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 14 – 19, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4 – 7 and 13. The claims have been amended to incorporate the features of claims 2 – 4 into claim 1 and the features of claim 13 into claim 12. Claim 1 (and therefore claims 5 – 7, which now depend directly or indirectly from claim 1) and claim 12 are thus deemed allowable.

**CONCLUSION**

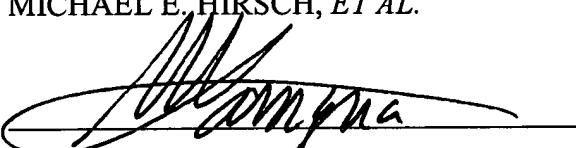
Based upon the foregoing, claims 1, 5 – 7, 12, and 14 – 19 are deemed to be in condition for immediate allowance, and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of those claims is earnestly solicited.

The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney of record if that will expedite allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY:

  
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